

without the dignity they have a right to.

We, in Congress, have the power to end poverty. We must act immediately with resolve, moral clarity, and with complete attention to the lives of poor people who demand to be seen and respected with our actions.

That is why I am so proud to co-introduce with Representative BARBARA LEE this bold and necessary resolution that commits Congress to eradicating poverty from the bottom up.

Mr. Speaker, today, we say to poor people everywhere, we see you, and we will eradicate poverty in our country with you.

#### REMEMBERING CHARLES ELSON "BUDDY" ROEMER, III

(Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Charles Elson "Buddy" Roemer, III, who was born October 4, 1943, and died on May 17 of this year, a couple of days ago, went home to his reward.

Buddy was a very nice guy, and he had a saying: "I love Louisiana, but I hate Louisiana politics." Many of us can understand that remark.

He was an American patriot, an investor, and a banker. He served in this body, the House of Representatives, from 1981-1988. He was the 52nd Governor of Louisiana, 1988-1992. He will be missed, remembered, loved, and respected.

#### RENEWING AMERICA'S FAILING WATER SYSTEMS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, we must act swiftly and with boldness to renew America's failing water systems.

We know the heartache of failing water systems all too well: lead, PFAS, disruptive water main breaks, and unaffordable bills.

Yesterday, I introduced bold national drinking water legislation, written with my friend, the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, FRANK PALLONE, to restore America's most critical infrastructure, and one of our most basic responsibilities of government, our drinking water systems.

The AQUA Act delivers on President Joe Biden's promise to remove every lead service line in the country, including removing lead from the drinking water systems of some 400,000 schools and childcare centers.

Our bill invests heavily in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, to put resources in the hands of folks on the ground who know what their communities need.

It delivers a financial lifeline to local water systems in return for a multi-

year commitment that they will not shut off anyone's water because of financial hardship during this devastating and prolonged pandemic.

Let's rise to meet the moment. Let's do our jobs. Let's build back the right way so every American can use and trust the water coming out of our taps.

#### URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO NOMINATE AN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the rising rate of religious persecution around the world, where billions are persecuted for practicing their chosen faith.

One of the tools we have to combat global religious injustice is the Office of International Religious Freedom at the State Department. However, this office remains without leadership. Thus far, President Biden has neglected to appoint an ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom.

That is why I led a bipartisan and bicameral letter to President Biden to take action and appoint an ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom.

Religious freedom is one of the most basic human rights, Mr. Speaker, yet religious persecution continues around the world in countries like Iran, Russia, and China.

President Biden must act now and nominate this ambassador and give the U.S. Government a leading voice to combat this persecution and ensure a future where all mankind can freely practice their religion of choice without fear.

#### STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my Asian American and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters.

Asian Americans continue to experience violence, harassment, and discrimination. Across our country, our AAPI communities live in fear of being targets of deadly violence and racist slurs, simply because of who they are.

As we work to invest and rebuild our communities, we must make one thing clear: Hate and racism have no home here, not in our policies, and not in our hearts.

Yesterday, we passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to send to the President's desk. Today, we passed a resolution condemning the horrific shooting in Atlanta.

We are making progress, but we must never lose sight of the work that lies ahead to combat the hatred and violence against the AAPI community and root out racism against our brothers and sisters.

#### SMALL BUSINESS IS THE MAIN DRIVER OF NEW JOBS

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, a while back, I visited a small business called Craft Axe Throwing and Beer. What an interesting combination of activities, I thought. I had driven by it a number of times, but I stopped in one day. Seeing this team make a living, enjoying themselves, I thought to myself, that is what it is all about.

Mr. Speaker, the main driver of new jobs in America is small business. The good news is that unemployment has been on a steady downward trend. But now, the hard news: the April jobs report. It was bad. At the same time, small business owners report that they can't fill the job openings that they have. Why? Earlier necessary government assistance during the pandemic is now interfering with the successful transition back to meaningful work.

A little good news: Wages are going up. Let's let America run.

#### ENCOURAGING APPLICATIONS FOR UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage young people in my district to learn more about the opportunities offered by our U.S. service academies.

One of the greatest honors of being a Member of Congress is having the ability to nominate outstanding students for appointment to West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy.

As high school students contemplate what they will do after graduation, I encourage them to consider the benefits of attending one of our service academies, including the unique opportunities for leadership and entry to a range of careers, at no cost to the student or their family.

The process is competitive, so it is never too early to get started.

I encourage any students in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District who might be interested in attending a service academy to attend our next virtual information session hosted by my office on May 27 at 7 p.m. They may sign up at [scanlon.house.gov](https://scanlon.house.gov).

I look forward to nominating another amazing group of young leaders to the service academies this fall.